May 2, 2003

Governor Musgrove Requests Federal Assistance for

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

(Jackson, MS) – In a letter sent today, Governor Ronnie Musgrove requested federal assistance for recovery from damages suffered as a result of storms that struck central Mississippi on the evening of Thursday, April 24. The storms inflicted damage in several counties that had just been declared federal disaster areas earlier in the day.

Storms of April 24

"We've been hammered by these storms recently, and people have got to have relief," Musgrove said. "I'm confident we'll get the assistance we need to rebuild and recover from this most recent series of storms."

In his letter, Musgrove asked that the federal declaration issued for storms that hit the state between April 6-14 be extended to include the storms of April 24. The request covers Rankin County and other counties affected by the storms.

The tornado that swept through Brandon on April 24 was rated as an F3 on the Fujita Scale, with estimated winds between 158-206 miles per hour. Nearly 300 homes, mobile homes and apartments were damaged.